

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Device for dynamic tensioning of a natural or prosthetic knee joint, ~~with or without a tibial cut being carried out, of the type~~ comprising:

at least one femoral insert ~~(8A)~~ which has a condyle support surface ~~(20A)~~ for a femoral implant or bone;

at least one tibial insert ~~(10A)~~ which has a support surface ~~(24A)~~ for a tibial plate for a tibial implant or bone; and

means ~~(4A, 30A)~~ for applying, between the femoral and tibial inserts, a distraction force of a predetermined strength, ~~with or without the kneecap being in position, characterised in that it~~

said device is constructed so as to allow rotation of the joint and further comprises means for maintaining the knee in a state of tension during rotation, ~~and thus carrying out~~ so as to enable measurements for various angles of rotation to be performed, wherein the condyle support surface ~~(20A)~~ is provided with sliding means ~~(12A)~~ for the femoral implant or bone when the knee joint is displaced, the sliding means comprising juxtaposed rollers ~~(12A)~~.

2. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the condyle support surface ~~(20A)~~ is in the form of a dish.

3-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a femoral insert ~~(8A, 8B)~~, and optionally a tibial insert ~~(10A, 10B)~~, is/are provided for each inner and outer compartment of the knee joint.

9. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ further comprising means for measuring the spacing of the condyle support surfaces ~~(20A)~~ and tibial plate support surfaces ~~(24A)~~, ~~which said~~ means for measuring the spacing are capable of continuously measuring the spacing between the support surfaces when the knee joint is displaced.

10. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ further comprising means ~~(42A)~~ for measuring the distraction force between the femoral inserts ~~(8A)~~ and tibial inserts ~~(10A)~~, ~~which said~~ means for measuring the distraction force are capable of continuously measuring the

variation of the strength of the distraction force around the predetermined strength thereof when the knee joint is displaced.

11. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means for applying the distraction force comprise a force generation unit ~~(30A)~~ and a pair of branches ~~(4A)~~ which connect the generation unit to the femoral inserts ~~(8A)~~ and tibial inserts ~~(10A)~~.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sliding means comprise juxtaposed roller bearings.

14-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the condyle support surface ~~(20A)~~ is substantially cylindrical, having an axis ~~(X-X)~~ which is substantially transverse relative to the direction of distraction.

17-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein a maximum thickness of each femoral insert ~~(8A, 8B)~~ and tibial insert ~~(10A, 10B)~~ is less than or equal to 2.5 mm.

21. (new) A device for dynamic tensioning of a natural or prosthetic knee joint said device enables rotation of the joint and comprises:

a femoral insert having a condyle support surface for a femoral implant or bone;

a tibial insert having a support surface for a tibial plate for a tibial implant or bone; and

an assembly that applies a distraction force of a predetermined strength between the femoral and tibial inserts,

wherein said assembly comprises a force generation unit that maintains the knee in a state of tension during rotation, so as to enable measurements for various angles of rotation to be performed, and

wherein the condyle support surface comprises juxtaposed rollers that enable the femoral implant or bone to slide when the knee joint is rotated.

22. (new) The device according to claim 21, wherein the condyle support surface is in a shape of a dish.

23. (new) The device according to claim 21, further comprising a femoral insert and optionally a tibial insert for each inner and outer compartment of the knee joint.

24. (new) The device according to claim 21, further comprising means for measuring the spacing of the condyle support surfaces and tibial plate support surfaces that continuously measure the spacing between the support surfaces when the knee joint is displaced.

25. (new) The device according to claim 21, further comprising a pressure gauge that indicates the distraction force between the femoral insert and tibial insert, said pressure gauge continuously indicates a variation of a strength of the distraction force around the predetermined strength thereof when the knee joint is displaced.

26. (new) The device according to claim 21, wherein the assembly further comprises a pair of branches which connect the force generation unit to the femoral insert and the tibial insert.

27. (new) The device according to claim 21, wherein the condyle support surface is substantially cylindrical, having an axis which is substantially transverse relative to a direction of distraction.

28. (new) The device according to claim 21, wherein a maximum thickness of the femoral insert and the tibial insert is less than or equal to 2.5 mm.